

E-142, 116/SA-91-24 ORDER APPROVING CHANGES IN ASSIGNED SERVICE
AREAS

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Darrel L. Peterson
Cynthia A. Kitlinski
Dee Knaak
Norma McKanna
Patrice M. Vick

Chair
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner

In the Matter of a Petition of
Steele-Waseca Cooperative
Electric and Goodhue County
Cooperative Electric Association
to Adjust their Mutual Service-
Territory Boundary

ISSUE DATE: June 7, 1991

DOCKET NO. E-142, 116/SA-91-24

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PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On January 16, 1991, Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric (Steele-Waseca) and Goodhue County Cooperative Electric Association (Goodhue) filed a joint petition for a change in their service area boundary. Goodhue is presently serving one customer in Kenyan Township, Goodhue County who is in Steele-Waseca's service territory. Steele-Waseca is currently serving one customer in Richland Township, Rice County who is in Goodhue's service territory. According to the utilities' joint petition, the utilities have been serving the two customers by mistake due to erroneous service area maps which were filed with the Commission in 1974. The two utilities mutually agreed to adjust their boundaries to conform to actual field conditions, and requested Commission permission to change their service maps accordingly. The revision would not affect existing facilities or service to present customers.

On February 20, 1990, the Department of Public Service (the Department) filed comments in support of the utilities' proposed boundary revision.

On May 8, 1991, the Commission issued its Notice of Commission Meeting, according all interested persons, including affected customers, an opportunity to comment. No one opposed the proposed boundary change.

The matter came before the Commission on May 21, 1991.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

In this case the utilities began serving the customers outside their service territory by mistake. The utilities have agreed that conforming their service maps to the actual service situation would be in the best interests of all concerned. The Commission agrees that this change would be in accordance with assigned service area legislation and Commission policy, which strongly discourage disrupting existing service arrangements. The Commission will approve the service area boundary change.

The Commission reminds the utilities that under Minnesota law electric utilities may only serve customers outside their assigned service areas if they have received Commission approval after notice and hearing under Minn. Stat. § 216B.39 or service by exception is consented to under Minn. Stat. § 216B.40.

ORDER

1. The assigned service area boundary change requested in the petition at issue is approved.
2. The Department of Public Service shall revise the official service area maps to reflect the boundary change approved herein.
3. This Order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Richard R. Lancaster
Executive Secretary

(S E A L)